

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: GOC VIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS AND DOMESTIC POLICIES

REF: SANTIAGO 1991 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: IN LAST WEEK OR SO, GOC SPOKESMEN, SUPPLEMENTED BY COMMENTARIES IN SUCH LEADING CHILEAN MEDIA AS "EL MERCURIO," HAVE TAKEN PUBLIC POSITION THAT KISSINGER-STYLE DETENTE IS SERIOUS MISTAKE WHICH LEADS ONLY TO MAJOR ADVANCES BY COMMUNIST CAMP. EVENTS IN VIET NAM, ELSEWHERE IN INDO CHINA, AND PORTUGAL ARE ADDUCED TO BUTTRESS THIS CASE. CONSEQUENTLY, THESE SPOKESMEN ADD, GOC HAS BEEN RIGHT ALL ALONG IN ITS HARDLINE POSITION TOWARD COMMUNIST CAMP. USUALLY STATED COROLLARY IS THAT GOC THEREFORE WILL NOT TOLERATE OUTSIDE PRESSURE OR "ADVICE" ON HOW IT SHOULD CONDUCT ITS DOMESTIC POLICIES, ESPECIALLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, GIVEN MAGNITUDE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY COMMUNIST FORCES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CRITICIZED BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS AND GROUPS WHICH HAVE FOCUSED ON CHILE. WE BELIEVE THIS LINE REPRESENTS CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY GOC TO INTERPRET RECENT WORLD EVENTS FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES. EFFECT DESIRED APPEARS TO BE TO CONVINCE CHILEANS OF CORRECTNESS OF UN-COMPROMISING GOC POSITION ON SECURITY/HUMAN RIGHTS

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ISSUES AND TO STRENGTHEN GOC RESISTANCE TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE TO CHANGE ITS PRACTICES IN THIS AREA. SPECIFIC ILLUSTRATIONS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ON HEELS OF HIS MARCH 26 ROTARY CLUB SPEECH (SANTIAGO 1867 NOTAL) AIR FORCE COMMANDER JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGHT DIRECTED ANOTHER SHARP BLAST AT US DETENTE POLICY IN APRIL 4 ADDRESS AT UNIV. OF CHILE BRANCH AT VALPARAISO. EVENTS IN VIET NAM IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID, HAVE SHOWN FUTILITY OF NEGOTIATING WITH COMMUNISTS, A FACT CHILEANS HAVE LONG KNOWN FROM OWN EXPERIENCE UNDER ALLENDE. "THIS IS WHY, IN OUR DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE EMPHATICALLY EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS OPENLY ANTI-SOVIET...OUT FIGHT AGAINST LENINIST COMMUNISM IS FRONTAL, DAILY, AND (COVERS) ALL ASPECTS." LEIGH CITED CONTRAST BETWEEN "DILIGENCE OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS IN INVESTIGATING OR PUNISHING CHILE FOR SUPPOSED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INNOCUOUS SILENCE WHICH THEY MAINTAIN IN THE FACE OF COMMUNIST VIOLATION OF EVERY HUMAN RIGHT AND NORM OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." LEIGH ADDED THAT GOC WOULD NOT MODIFY ITS SECURITY MEASURES BECAUSE IT IS FULLY AWARE OF "HOW THE MARXIST CANCER HAS EMBEDDED ITSELF" IN CHILE.

3. PRESIDENT PINOCHET, IN SPEECH TO CONVENTION OF LIONS CLUBS APRIL 5, REPEATED GOC INTENTION TO PUSH FOR INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF COMMUNIST CAMP FOR ATROCITIES IN VIET NAM (REFTEL).

4. SANTIAGO PRESS, MEANWHILE, CONTINUES INTENSIVE COVERAGE OF VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA REPORTED REFTEL. "EL MERCURIO" APRIL 5 CONTAINS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON VIET NAM ENTITLED "THE TRAGIC ROUT." EDITORIAL THEME IS THAT WORLD IN GENERAL AND UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, IN FAILING TO STAND UP TO COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, HAS SACRIFICED A FREE AND VALIANT PEOPLE TO HORRORS OF COMMUNISM. U.S. OPINION LEADERS, ESPECIALLY SENATOR KENNEDY, ARE PICTURED AS INDIFFERENT TO FATE OF

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VIETNAMESE WHILE INTENT ON CASTIGATING CHILE. US IS PAINTED AS IMPOTENT TO HALT COMMUNIST ADVANCE IN VIET NAM AND ELSEWHERE BECAUSE OF DETENTE POLICY AND POLITICAL BICKERING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS. UN IS SHOWN AS POWERLESS.

5. VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FEDERATION (FEUC), AND CON-

FEDERATION OF WORKERS IN PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN VIET NAM. SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE REPORTEDLY ORGANIZING "MASSIVE" RALLY LATER THIS WEEK. INCLUDED IN MANY OF THESE STATEMENTS IS POINT THAT AS LONG AS "GENOCIDE" IS BEING COMMITTED BY COMMUNISTS, IT ILL BEHOOVES FOREIGN GROUPS TO CRITICIZE CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS, OR CHILE TO ACCEPT STUDY GROUPS THAT DO NOT INVESTIGATE OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. COMMENT: WHILE PART OF THIS INTENSE REACTION IS GENUINE, PART ALSO IS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY GOC. WORLD EVENTS ARE SEEN BY GOC LEADERS AS CONFIRMING CORRECTNESS OF THEIR HARD-LINE ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION, AND THEY NOW APPEAR TO BE ENDEAVORING TO USE THESE EVENTS AS RATIONALE FOR REJECTING FOREIGN PRESSURE ON GOC IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.
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